

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 69

By Black

A RESOLUTION to designate October 17, 2007, as "Tennessee Bus Drivers' Appreciation Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, every month of the school year, in darkness and daylight, bitter cold and brutal heat, Tennessee's school bus drivers travel thousands upon thousands of miles on everything from dirt paths to multi-lane highways to deliver our precious school students to their places of learning and then home again; and

WHEREAS, the breadth and scope of that responsibility is great and the hours are difficult; and

WHEREAS, we salute and appreciate school bus drivers everyday and recognize the invaluable contributions they make to the education process; and

WHEREAS, America's 480,000 school buses comprise the largest mass transportation fleet in the country, two and one half times the size of all other forms of mass transportation – transit, intercity buses, commercial airlines, and rail– combined; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's school districts often encompass large geographic areas, necessitating extensive use of school buses to transport students; and

WHEREAS, each school day, approximately 581,000 public school students and their parents rely on dependable school bus service, which a school district provides either directly or through a contract with a local transportation company; and

WHEREAS, there are over 14,000 licensed school bus drivers in this state, operating 9,000 registered school buses; and

WHEREAS, school bus drivers deliver their young passengers safely to class and extracurricular activities in both fair and foul weather; and

WHEREAS, school bus drivers safely transport students from before sunrise until after sunset, making every reasonable effort to maintain their schedules; and

WHEREAS, the National Safety Council has documented the far smaller number of accidents and fatalities per capita on buses than in automobiles; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's school bus drivers are dedicated to performing their duties in a safe and courteous manner; and

WHEREAS, this year's National School Bus Safety Week will be celebrated from October 22 through 26; children from Tennessee and from all over the nation will help celebrate this important week by creating school bus safety posters; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly wishes to honor Tennessee's outstanding school bus drivers for the vital role they play in assuring students arrive safely and promptly at their destinations each day; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that in recognition of the invaluable contributions school bus drivers make to the educational process, this General Assembly hereby designates October 17, 2007, as "Tennessee Bus Drivers' Appreciation Day" in Tennessee and call upon the citizens of this State to recognize the important function served by these dedicated professional school bus drivers, in whose trust we place our children every school day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.